



The Board of Park and Recreation Commissioners of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, met at the Ivory Baker Recreation Center located at 1920 Stroud Park Court, Charlotte, NC, on August 12, 2014 at 6 p.m.

**PRC MINUTES
August 12, 2014**

ATTENDANCE

PRC Present: Rob Brisley, Chair
Kendel Bryant, Vice-Chair
Elaine Powell, Executive Secretary
Ed Barnhart
Doug Burnett
Brenda McMoore
Norman Mitchell
Jude Harding
Aubin Guinness
Sheryl Smith

PRC Absent: Tristan McMannis
Joe Pata
Charlie McRee

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Chair Rob Brisley, which was followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Welcome and Introductions:

PRC: Each of the Park and Recreation Commissioners introduced themselves including new Park and Recreation Commissioner, **Aubin Guinness**, who will be representing the Northern Towns. Aubin previously served on the Greenway Advisory Council.

Staff of Ivory Baker Recreation Center: Lola Massad shared background information on the Ivory Baker Recreation Center which opened in 2007 as a partnership with the Charlotte Housing Authority, the Anita Stroud Foundation and the Bethlehem Center. She then introduce the Facility Manager, Terrence McMurray, who introduced fulltime staff Shawn McCants and Cara Helfer and gave updates on the current summer programs and camps at the Ivory Baker Recreation Center.

Proclamations and Awards – Anthony James “AJ” - Retirement

Lola Massad, Community and Recreation Center Services Division Director, recognized Recreation Coordinator/Supervisor – Youth Sports, **Anthony James**, and his family in attendance, for 29 years of service to the Park and Recreation Department. Lola shared the many awards and achievements of AJ, including the first employee in the Department to receive the County Employee of the Year Award and an Olympic level certification for coaching. AJ was described as a once in a life type employee.

Program/Staff Presentations: Community and Recreation Center Services

Senior Programing: Lola Massad, presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted the senior programs offered at the various recreation centers including the MeckSenior program, Senior Games, DSS meal sites, senior sports and senior aquatic programming. (**NOTE:** This PowerPoint presentation is included in the August PRC Minutes Binder, Section 4a, housed in the Director’s office.)

Lola also introduced Recreation Managers Terri Stowers, Heidi Kitterman and Joey Grahl and new Tyvola Senior Center Manager, Katie Robinson.

Appointments – Advisory Council – Applicants

Motion was made by Commissioner Barnhart to appoint **Tom Watson** to an unexpired term on the Greenway Advisory Council, expiring 6/2015, which was seconded by Commissioner Harding and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Barnhart asked that the South Advisory Council Directory be updated.

Commissioner Bryant asked that the North Advisory Council vacancies be reviewed for accuracy.

Director’s Report

Deputy Director, Michael Kirschman reported on the following topics:

Senior Center Merger: The merger is going well and staff are doing a great job a managing the moving parts behind the scenes, i.e. new policies and procedures, new computer programs, new security, ActiveNet, new phones, building leases and assets.

Commissioner Powell asked about our relationship with AARP. Terri Stowers, Central Corridor Manager, responded that we work in partnership with them on the Leisure and Learn series to provide educational workshops on critical issues facing seniors.

Commissioner Powell shared that through her involvement with the Mecklenburg Livable Communities Plan, seniors have expressed how much they enjoy and want more day trips, especially to our Nature Preserves. Lola Massad, Division Director of Community and Recreation Center Services said that the issue associated with visiting and/or participating in programs at our nature preserves, is really a transportation and staffing issue. Planned day trips are trips outside of Park and Recreation.

Commissioner Brisley inquired about the senior population data and suggested that this topic stay on the SPLRF agenda going forward. He also asked about staffing changes associated with the Senior Center merger. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman responded that we actually gained a few positions in the merger. Michael also provided statistical data on the senior population growth, noting that by 2032 the 60 and over population will grow from 135,000 to 300,000.

NRPA: Charlotte is hosting the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Congress October 13 – 16. All PRC were invited to attend and registration will be paid by the Department. They were asked to respond by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, June 15, 2014. As the host city, the Department is responsible for the golf outing, the 5K fun run and all of the off-site institutes.

Public Forum – Tobacco Ban: Michael reported on the August 11, 2014 public forum on the proposed tobacco ban on park properties. There were 15 to 20 citizens in attendance as well as the press and County Commissioners Karen Bentley, Pat Cotham and Dumont Clarke. The forum was made up of facilitator, Rebecca Hubert and a panel made up of Dr. Plescia, Health Director; Michelle Lancaster, Assistant County Manager; Michael Kirschman, Park and Recreation Deputy Director and Kim Bayha, Health Department. The forum went well with excellent questions from citizens and answers by the panel. Much discussion surrounded the reasons for the ordinance, modeling for our youth and the impact to public health and chronic disease. The public hearing will be held in the Government Center at the September 2, 2014 BOCC meeting at which time citizens can speak directly to the County Commissioners. During the regular BOCC meeting at the Government Center on September 17, 2014 the BOCC will vote on the proposed ban.

Commissioner Bryant asked about the fine associated with the ordinance and how it will be enforced. Michael responded that the fine would be \$25.00. Dr. Plescia has talked with Chief Monroe who has no concerns regarding enforcement. The reality is that most people abide by the law and with good signage and education, this should be no more of an issue concerning enforcement than with the Departments other 47 ordinances.

Commissioners Bryant and Powell expressed concern for how the Park Rangers will handle confrontation surrounding the proposed ordinance and the stress it may cause them and want to make sure that the Rangers have full support and training.

Commissioner Burnett asked how the Department is funding the signage. The Health Department will fund the signage and estimates the cost to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Park and Recreation will install the signs. The sign design will not begin until the proposed ban is actually passed. Input on sign design will be welcomed from the PRC and citizens.

Commissioner Mitchell asked how the Tradition Golf Course could be exempt from the proposed ordinance. Deputy Director Michael Kirschman responded that two properties would be exempt; the Charlotte Douglas International Airport and the Tradition Golf Course. These exemptions are based on County Attorney recommendation due to their complex land leases. (The vendor at Tradition funded and built the golf course.)

Commissioner Mitchell also asked for a response regarding the question of where family members of patients at Carolina's Healthcare System and staff would go or would be directed to go to smoke when they are no longer allowed to smoke on our greenway. Michael agreed to have a response at the September 9 PRC meeting.

Consent Items

Deputy Director Michael Kirschman asked for a correction to the June 10, 2014 PRC Minutes under **Public Appearance, Commissioner McMoore, Responses**; to remove his name as a responder as he was not at this meeting.

Commissioner Barnhart asked for information on the consent item **11a1, 14-1981 - Agreement - Development and Operation of Ballantyne District Park with the YMCA**. Division Director, Lee Jones provided background information on the original agreement regarding the development and operation of Ballantyne District Park with the YMCA. The Legislative item submitted to the BOCC on August 5, 2014 was to adopt a resolution approving a second amendment to the agreement, mainly, extending the lease for 20 additional years. (**NOTE:** Details regarding this Legislative file can be found in the August PRC Minutes Binder, **Section 11a1**, housed in the Director's office.)

Motion was made by Commissioner Mitchell to approve all consent items (with corrections as noted) including the June 10, 2014 PRC Minutes, which was seconded and approved unanimously.

PRC Reports and Requests

Filming in Parks: Commissioner Powell expressed concern regarding policy and procedures and the impact filming permits have on our nature preserves. Michael Kirschman and Chris Matthews share processes, but a report, including revenue, will be made to the PRC at the September 9 PRC meeting. The following points, however, were made regarding the subject:

- Areas for filming are pre-approved and contracts and insurance requirements are secured
- A staff person is not assigned to be on site during the filming, but they do meet the film crews to grant access
- Point of contact for permission will be the manager of the park region or nature preserve where filming is being requested
- Not everyone who ask for a permit to film will receive one

PRC Nominating Committee: Chair Rob Brisley appointed Commissioner Mitchell to chair the executive team nominating committee and Commissioners Barnhart and Harding will serve on that committee. Nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Executive Secretary will come before the Board at the September 9, 2011 PRC meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.